

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 ARA-14 EA-12

NEA-10 /117 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6977

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PRRIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 555

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, WA, SF

SUBJ: NAMIBIA: COMMENTS OF SOUTH AFRICAN MINISTERS OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE

1. SUMMARY: "THE CITIZEN" REPORTS THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN
MINISTERS OF DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAVE URGED THE WEST
TO COMPLETE ITS NAMIBIA PLAN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SINCE
CONDITIONS IN THE TERRITORY ARE DETERIORATING. BOTH MEN
ALSO REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THE "CUBAN PRESENCE" WAS THEIR MAIN
CONCERN. DEFENSE MIN IMPLIED FUTURE OF WALVIS BAY
COULD BE SUBJECT OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH INDEPENDENT GOVT
OF NAMIBIA.

2. THE CONSERVATIVE ENGLISH LANGUAGE "THE CITIZEN" OF MARCH 20
CARRIED AS ITS LEAD STORY EXCERPTS OF INTERVIEWS WITH FOREIGN
MINISTER PIK BOTH AND DEFENSE MIN P.W. BOTHA,
IN WHICH BOTH MEN "ISSUED SEVERE WARNINGS TO THE WEST"
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ON SOUTH WEST AFRICA. PIK BOTHA WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT
THE WEST MUST BE PUSHED TO MAKE CLEAR ITS STANDPOINT ON
SOUTHERN AFRICA SINCE THINGS ARE DETERIORATING IN THE AREA
DAY BY DAY. HE REPORTEDLY ADDED: "THE MAIN ISSUE IS OF
COURSE THE PRESENCE OF THE CUBANS IN ANGOLA AND THE THREAT
TO SOUTH WEST AFRICA THAT GOES WITH IT. THE QUESTION THAT
REMAINS IS: WHAT OR WHO IS GOING TO BE THEIR NEXT TARGET?"

3. DEFENSE MIN P.W. BOTHA, SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF RECREATIONAL COMPLEX AT THE ROOISKOP AIRBASE IN WALVIS BAY, REPORTEDLY MADE SIMILAR COMMENTS ABOUT THE DETERIORATING SITUATION AND SAID THAT SOUTH AFRICA COULD NOT WITHDRAW ITS TROOPS AS LONG AS "COMMUNIST-INSPIRED TERRORISTS CONTINUE PROPAGATING AND COMMITTING MURDER AND CHAOS IN THE TERRITORY". BOTHA ALSO COMMENTED ON THE CUBANS, SAYING: "IT IS THE CUBAN PRESENCE IN ANGOLA THAT IS CAUSING THE MAIN CONCERN AND PROBLEM AT THE MOMENT. AND I AM WAITING TO SEE WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN THERE BECAUSE TIME IS RUNNING OUT RAPIDLY". COMMENTING ON THE STATUS OF WALVIS BAY, BOTHA REPORTEDLY SAID THAT IT "IS UNALIENABLY PART OF SOUTH AFRICA" AND WILL BE DEFENDED AS SUCH. REGARDING THE FUTURE OF WALVIS BAY, BOTHA SAID: "WHAT THE SITUATION MAY BE IN FUTURE, AND WHAT COULD AHPPEN THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS AROUND THE CONFERENCE TABLE BETWEEN US AND AN INDEPENDENT SOUTH WEST AFRICA IS A MATTER WHICH CANNOT BE SPECULATED ABOUT AT THIS STAGE".
BOWDLER

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